



# Japanese Beetle

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) was first discovered in the United States in New Jersey in 1916. A native of Japan, the beetle occurs in all states east of the Mississippi River. Japanese beetles attack a broad range of host material including nearly 300 species of plants. The adult beetle will feed on field crops, ornamentals, trees, shrubs and garden plants, severely defoliating and skeletonizing the host plants. The larvae will feed on the roots of turf grasses and field crops (especially corn and soybeans) as well as organic matter in the soil, severely damaging golf courses, lawns and pastures. The Japanese beetle is a highly destructive plant pest that can be very difficult and expensive to control.



Late stage larva

Japanese beetle adults are about 1/2 inch long with the male slightly smaller than the female. The insects are metallic green in color with bronze wing covers called elytra. Adults begin to emerge mid-June with peak emergence occurring approximately 3 to 4 weeks after initial emergence. The female beetle will burrow into the soil during the day to lay eggs, laying up to 60 eggs in her 2 month lifespan. Eggs will hatch in about two weeks. Larvae, which are about 1 inch long and cream colored with a brown head, will live in the soil, feeding on plant roots. The insect will overwinter as third instar larvae below the frost line and will pupate and emerge the following spring.



Japanese beetle trapping has been ongoing in North Dakota since the early 1960s. Beetles were first intercepted in North Dakota in 2001 in Bismarck, but not again until 2012. Approximately 180 traps were placed around the state in 2012. Traps are deployed in June and removed in September. South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana have established populations.



For more information refer to: [www.nd.gov/ndda](http://www.nd.gov/ndda)

Photo Credits: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org; E. Bradford Walker, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Bugwood.org; Charles Elhard and Carrie Larson, North Dakota Department of Agriculture.